



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758
Stephen Moore, IRS CI (313) 234-2410

May 16, 2005

EVENT: Conviction

DEFENDANT: April J. Jones

**Detroit Preparer's Skills to Deceive Lands Her a
Conviction for Preparing False Returns**

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy and Maurice M. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation announced that on May 13, 2005, April Jones, 35, of Detroit, Michigan, was convicted by a jury in federal court on 31 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false Federal income tax returns.

The verdict was delivered after the jury deliberated for an hour, concluding a five day trial before United States District Judge Robert H. Cleland. Evidence presented at trial showed that during 1999 through 2002, Ms. Jones gained larger refunds and minimized tax liabilities through her budding tax service for co-workers at a local auto plant and their referrals. She did this by adding fictitious job search deductions, gifts to charity, and un-reimbursed employee expenses, causing the Internal Revenue Service to suffer a tax loss of over \$70,000. In most cases, Ms. Jones failed to sign the returns as the preparer even though she was collecting a fee.

Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation became aware of Ms. Jones' activities

during their investigation of Maquilla Yvonne Squire, 43, of Detroit, Michigan, another local auto plant employee. During questioning, many of the taxpayers who utilized Ms. Squires' services, identified Ms. Jones as the return preparer on their subsequent tax returns. On May 11, 2004, Ms. Squire was sentenced to 27 months imprisonment as the result of pleading guilty to two counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax returns, after creating over \$730,000 in false deductions.

Mr. Aouate stated, "abusive return preparers try and convince taxpayers that they have developed the necessary knowledge and skills to deceive the Internal Revenue Service, which is usually far from the truth."

Ms. Jones' sentencing date is scheduled for August 16, 2005 at 2:00 pm.

Mr. Murphy commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Dawn N. Ison prosecuted the case.